



# MINUTES

## City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission

Monday, April 24th, 2017  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

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Aquaplex Community Room  
1702 N. Fourth Street  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

A quorum of the Flagstaff City Council may be in attendance of the Open Spaces Commission meeting.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact 928-213-2175 (774-5281 TDD). Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Bryan Burton, Chair  
Rick Miller  
Jim Burton  
Stephen Hirst  
Libby Kalinowski  
Jackie Thomas  
David Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Commission

### **I. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

#### **2. Public Participation**

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on that day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

No public participation.

**3. Approval of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Burton motioned to approve the March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Miller second the motion. All commissioners voted in favor to approve the March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes.

**4. Discussion Items**

**A. Flagstaff Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Program, Charles Hammersley**

Charles Hammersley shared information about the Flagstaff Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Program to the Commission. Mr. Hammersley stated that this program would replicate the Coconino County's Parks and Open Space Program (CPOS), which expired in November 2014. The Program Mr. Hammersley is working on will be bound to corporate limits of the City of Flagstaff and will be housed within the City organization. Mr. Hammersley also shared that CPOS increased the County sales tax one-eighth of a cent and raised \$33 million during the duration of the program. Mr. Hammersley stated he has been reaching out to other groups to ask for their support, including the City's Parks and Recreation Commission. In addition, Mr. Hammersley is asking local groups, organizations, and Commissions for lists of projects that they would be interested in funding by this program along with an approximate cost. Mr. Hammersley asked the Open Spaces Commission to consider endorsing the program, which will go to the Commission as an action item at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**B. Consideration of Donation of Private Land on McMillan Mesa, Betsy Emery**

Ms. Emery, Open Space Specialist, shared with the Commission that a private developer would like to donate three parcels located on McMillan Mesa to the City of Flagstaff to be incorporated into the expanded boundary of Buffalo Park. The three parcels, owned by Cavin Development, consist of five acres property that was deed restricted to open space as part of the development process. The three parcels are adjacent to the expanded boundaries of Buffalo Park, as a result of the voter-approved Proposition 413- Greater Buffalo Park. The Commission discussed how the donated property could be used as parking and public access for a south entrance to McMillan Mesa/ Buffalo Park. Commissioner Hirst motioned that the parcels have open space value given their adjacency to Buffalo Park and potential for access and recreation. Commissioner Kalinowski seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**C. Consideration of City-Owned Parcel 111-02-001C, Betsy Emery**

Ms. Emery shared with the Commission that City-Owned parcel 111-02-001C is currently being considered by the Housing Section for an affordable housing project that would result in up to 28 parcels being built on the property. Ms. Emery asked the Commission for their input regarding whether the parcel has open space value. The Commission matrixed the parcel and determined that parcel 111-02-001C might contain archeological features from the Beale Wagon Trail. Parcel 111-02-001C might have agriculture value, provides a buffer as an iconic gateway into Flagstaff, has significant scenic value, might have ecological value, has recreation value given the nearby FUTS trail alignment that forms the eastern boundary of the parcel, and provides connectivity to the nearby FUTS. Commissioner Zimmerman motioned that parcel 111-02-001C has open space value. Commissioner Kalinowski seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

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**D. Open Space Management Update, Betsy Emery**

Ms. Emery gave a brief Open Space Management update to the Commission. The Sustainability Section hosted the Earth Day event on April 22, 2017. This was the first event in which the Open Space Program had their own table. Open Space Program Staff discussed the program with approximately 100 attendees. The Open Space Program will be celebrating Arbor Day by hosting a volunteer event at Picture Canyon on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 9am – 12pm. The Arbor Day event will focus on removing invasive weeds from the Rio de Flag riparian area and a section of fencing from the area surrounding the outdoor classroom. In addition, Ms. Emery stated that the Open Space Management Plan will go forth to City Council for consideration on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

**5. Information Items To and From Commissioners and Staff**

Commissioner Jackie Thomas gave a brief background of her work and education to the Commission. Commissioner Thomas stated that she works for the State Land Department and is interested in open spaces. Commissioner Hirst and Miller have been attending the Coconino County Park and Open Space Commission meetings. Commissioner Hirst stated that the Coconino County Park and Open Space Commission is interested in getting community members involved with the parks.

**6. Upcoming Agenda Items**

- A.** Vote for Open Spaces Commission Vice-Chair, Commission
- B.** Consideration of Flagstaff Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Program, Commission
- C.** Process for Identifying Potential Open Space Acquisitions, Betsy Emery
- D.** Open Space Project List, Betsy Emery
- E.** Donations of Open Space as Part of the Development Process, Community Development Staff
- F.** Acquisition Priorities for Open Space and FUTS, Betsy Emery/Martin Ince
- G.** Review of Vacant County-Owned Parcels within City Limits, Betsy Emery
- H.** McMillan Mesa Management, Steve Zimmerman

**7. Adjournment**

Commissioner Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:05pm. Commissioner Hirst seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. in accordance with the statement filed by the Disability Awareness Commission with the City Clerk.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

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Elizabeth Emery, Open Space Specialist